

Franklin Street
East Middle School
Auburn, New York 13021
November 23, 2006

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Mr. Denny Fitzpatrick
102 Hackett Blvd.
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

As the Health Teacher at East Middle School in Auburn, New York, I would like to thank Sgt. Michael Murray and his staff members for a most informative and interesting program for our students. Our eighth grade students were enlightened to the many personal losses involved with prison life, and the difficulties of life within the walls of a prison. The program stimulated an overwhelming feeling among our students that it is certainly no place they ever want to spend time as a prisoner.

Mike and his staff were well prepared and confidently presented a very organized Power Point program that outlined the restrictions of prison life, the severe losses for prisoners, and the potentially violent nature of prisons. The weapons display and description was especially an eye-opener for our naïve and impressionable teens. Since several of our students have relatives that are employed at the Auburn Correctional Facility, they were very receptive to the information. They are appreciative and proud of the work of their family members.

This program will help our students in reinforcing the importance of resisting peer pressure and avoiding risky behavior that may jeopardize their health and place them in trouble with the law.

My only suggestion for improvement would be to examine the evaluation form to help simplify particular words such as "perception" and "positive consequences."

This is an outstanding program which carries a realistic message, and is a long-term motivator for informed decision making. In my thirty-six years in education, I would rate this program as one of our best and most influential community presentations. I strongly recommend this program for all schools, with emphasis on the middle school years.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Haff
Robert S. Haff

xc. Supt. Harold Graham
Sgt. Michael Murray